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Pinochet Repudiates UN Vote In Attempt to Improve Standing

President Pinochet has repudiated Chile's controversial vote for a UN resolution declaring that Zionism is a form of racism. By stating publicly that he did not approve of his nation's vote, Pinochet was making a frank attempt to undo the damage the vote had done to his country's standing among Western nations.

Chilean support for the Arab-backed resolution had brought allegations that the vote was an effort to gain Arab support for backing down a UN movement condemning human rights practices in Chile. Although Chile's membership of the Arab bloc seemed nothing to fear, some of Pinochet's advisers evidently thought the UN vote would offset Arab's good will prior to Finance Minister Cevallos' trip to the Middle East.

The decision to obtain in the next vote on this issue will cancel out any leverage with the Arabs Chile gained by voting with them earlier.

Most Chilean diplomats, however, recognize the folly of further alienating the West in order for slender expectations of support elsewhere. Since Chile cast its vote on October 17, Chileans have been strong by press reports that the US may suspend all military aid.

Chilean Justice Minister Schwelb has implied that Chile may be reconsidering its stand on human rights investigations. He said the press in Washington that if the next OAS General Assembly were held in Santiago, the Chilean government would "allow all OAS agencies to see for themselves the human rights situation in Chile." (C)

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